

## PRESENCE

### PART 1: PEACE WITH GOD — RESPONDING TO DIVINE INVITATION

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## MESSAGE NOTES

*The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace. — Numbers 6:24 – 26*

*The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever. The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses His people with peace. — Psalm 29:10 – 11*

1. Genuine, internal, soul-level peace (Shalom) always comes in the context of relationship with God.

*This is what the Lord says — your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go. If only you had paid attention to My commands, your peace would have been like a river, your well-being like the waves of the sea.*

*— Isaiah 48:17 – 18*

*Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to Me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to Me; listen, that you may live. — Isaiah 55:1 – 3*

2. God’s invitation to relationship comes without qualification and offers what is essential and life-giving. But we must receive it and enter into it!

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light. — Matthew 11:28 – 30*

*Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to Me. Get away with Me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with Me and work with Me — watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with Me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly. — Matthew 11:28 – 30 (The Message)*

3. In practical terms, relationship with God means humbly surrendering to God, receiving grace from God, and centering our lives in Him.

*He Himself bore our sins” in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. — 1 Peter 2:24 – 25*

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. — Romans 5:1 – 2*

*Our hearts are restless, O God, until they find their rest in Thee. — St. Augustine (4th Century Theologian)*

*The enemy of our soul strategizes day and night to get us to settle for bios life so we will never taste the hell-shattering fullness of zoe. God is the source of life through His provision. The enemy is the source of lies through his perversion. What we consume will consume us. It's our choice whether we are consuming God's life or the enemy's lies. — Lysa TerKeurst, Finding I AM Study Guide*

*Everywhere and always God is with us, near to us and in us. But we are not always with Him, since we do not remember Him. So take upon yourself this task, to make a habit of such recollection. Make yourself a rule always to be with the Lord, and do not let your thoughts wander. As often as they stray, turn them back again and keep them at home in the closet of your heart, and delight in conversation with the Lord! — St. Theophan*

*The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. ... The Lord watches over all who love Him, — Psalms 145:18 – 20*

*The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. — Deuteronomy 31:8*

*Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with Me. — Revelation 3:20*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck with you from this past weekend's message?
- What factors in our culture are currently contributing to people feeling such a high level of stress and anxiety?
- What are some of the biggest sources of stress in your life right now?
- What are some indicators of how stressed out people feel in our society?
- Have you ever experienced a time when God gave you a great sense of peace even though your circumstances were stressful?
- How would you define the Hebrew word "Shalom" and how do we access it? (Check out Isaiah 48:17 – 18 and Matthew 11:28 – 30 for a hint!)
- In what ways is relationship with God essential for the peace of God that goes beyond human understanding?
- How do we get peace with God (see Romans 5:1 – 2)?
- How would your life change if you could experience God's peace in the midst of your worst moments?